Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes Monday, October 7, 2019 Atkinson Town Hall

Approved November 4, 2019

Members Present:

Paul Wainwright, Chair Denise Legault, Vice Chair Pete McVay Dan Kimball Jeff Nenart Scott Kukshtel Bill Steele (Alternate, voting)

Others Present:

Kay Galloway Gene Forbes, Underwood Engineers John Ratigan, Attorney for the Town of Plaistow Russ Wolf

1) Call to Order & Attendance:

Chair Wainwright called the meeting to order at 7:29PM on Monday, October 7, 2019. Chair Wainwright stated that he'd had some requests to begin the monthly meeting at 7:00PM instead of 7:30PM, and stated that the Commission would try that out at the next meeting. Chair Wainwright reviewed the attendance list and declared that a quorum was present.

2) Review & Approval of Minutes:

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, subject to input from Denise Legault.

Member Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 public session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, pending edits requested by Member Legault. Member McVay seconded the motion. Six members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the September 9, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 6/0/1, with Pete McVay abstaining because he was not in attendance on September 9.

3) Treasurer's Report:

Chair Wainwright presented the latest Treasurer's Report. A copy is attached. Invoices submitted for the past month are highlighted in yellow. Chair Wainwright stated that as the end of the year draws near, the budget is getting very tight. Chair Wainwright also mentioned that he has not yet submitted the critter camera or the hedge trimmer under the new equipment section; he is holding onto the receipts until the end of the year to ensure there is enough money in the budget to cover those expenses.

4) Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project – Gene Forbes:

Chair Wainwright stated that the Members of the Commission have not had much information about the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project, and asked Gene Forbes to give a summary of the project and why it's necessary. Chair Wainwright stated that at the last Commission meeting, a question arose about whether or not local zoning laws apply, but Mr. Forbes made clear that they do not, since this is a Governmental Land Use, and is exempt from local zoning regulations under NH RSA 674:54.

Gene Forbes stated that this project began years ago when the need for potable water systems in southern New Hampshire came about. Mr. Forbes stated that seven communities came to an agreement to bring water from Manchester down through Londonderry, Windham, Salem, Atkinson, Hampstead and finally to Plaistow, New Hampshire. He continued that the root of the issue was groundwater contaminated with Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MtBE) from various gasoline companies, which were sued by the State of New Hampshire for their role in the contamination. Most settled out of court, but Exxon Mobil went to court and lost, and the proceeds from that award went into a Trust Fund to be used towards projects such as this one.

Mr. Forbes stated that his responsibility is to design a water line that will connect with Bryant Woods and bring water to Plaistow, and the best way to do that is to place a pumping station as close to the Atkinson-Plaistow town line as possible. Mr. Forbes stated that after much research, the location on East Road that they chose for the pumping station is the most ideal spot even though it is surrounded by prime wetlands. He stated that his intention is to work with the Town of Atkinson to obtain the necessary easements for this property. Chair Wainwright stated that the Commission would not be able to help obtain any of the easements needed. Mr. Forbes responded that he understands the Commission cannot help, but he does hope to earn a favorable reputation with the Commission because their opinion will go a long way towards the progress of this project. Mr. Forbes stated finally that this project will go out to bid in the spring and, if approved, he hopes to have the project complete by the end of 2020.

Chair Wainwright stated that the State may require some remediation prior to this project being fully approved due to their wetland boundary limits, and asked Mr. Forbes to speak briefly about the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. Mr. Forbes stated that it has been a few years since he's been involved with the "ARM" fund but it is essentially a way to compensate for environmental impacts as a result of work involving wetlands. Mr. Forbes continued that this fund is a way for construction companies to pay money to offset the wetland impact that their project would create. He stated that the money paid into this fund can then be used towards projects that will have a positive environmental impact within the same watershed. Mr. Forbes stated finally that the money they'd have to pay into the fund for this project would be very minimal, illustrating the minor amount of impact they plan to create.

Member McVay made a motion to write a letter to the Atkinson Board of Selectmen supporting the need for an easement from the Town so this pumping station project can stay out of the wetlands. Member Nenart seconded the motion. Seven members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the October 7, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 7/0/0

A copy of this letter, with attachments showing the planned pumping station location, is attached to these minutes.

Chair Wainwright called a five-minute recess before continuing the meeting. Mr. Forbes and attorney Ratigan departed.

5) Sawyer Invasive Plant Mitigation:

Chair Wainwright stated that he and several of the Commission members met with Charlie Moreno on October 2, 2019 to discuss the Sawyer Town Forest invasive plant mitigation project.

Chair Wainwright made reference to the map of the Sawyer Town Forest that was part of Charlie Moreno's mitigation proposal. The entire proposal is attached to last month's minutes, and a copy of just the map is attached to these minutes.

Chair Wainwright stated that Mr. Moreno is recommending a volunteer effort, with paid professionals to teach the volunteers and to guide the work to uproot the relatively few invasive plants in the "green zone," which represents the majority of the forest. Chair Wainwright voiced his skepticism when it comes to enlisting the help of volunteers for this specific project because of its size & scope. Mr. Moreno is in the process of securing bids for professionals to train a team of volunteers and then the Commission can decide whether or not they'd like to go that route.

Chair Wainwright made clear that whichever method the town uses to mitigate these plants, the project will require a long-term commitment if it is to be successful, as these projects are never a "one-and-done" effort. It will likely take many years to resolve.

Mr. Moreno should be returning bids by mid-November so the Commission may make a decision at their December meeting, and create a warrant article to fund the work from the Forest Maintenance Fund for the next election cycle.

The complete discussion of the conversation with Charlie Moreno is contained in the minutes to that meeting on October 2, which Chair Wainwright asked for a motion to approve.

Member Legault made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting with Charlie Moreno concerning the Sawyer Town Forest Invasive Plant

Mitigation project. Member Kimball seconded the motion. Four members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the October 2, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 4/0/3, with members Kukshtel, Nenart, and Steele abstaining because they were not present on October 2.

Chair Wainwright stated that there had been some concern on the Atkinson Conservation Facebook page in regard to using herbicides to mitigate these invasive plants, and asked the Commission their opinion on the matter. Member Nenart stated that sometimes you *need* herbicides. Member Kimball stated that you just need to be careful of which herbicide you select. Member Legault stated that it would be helpful to use the suggested blue dye additive to help monitor which areas have already been treated to prevent over-exposure. Alternate Steele reminded the Commission that these chemicals make their way into the soil so it's important to think about where they will eventually end up, and think critically about the potential impacts.

6) Trails and Grants Working Group Report:

 Printed Maps - Chair Wainwright asked the Commission how this project was coming along. Member McVay stated that Member Krause is doing a great job using the AllTrails application to generate the trail maps, and those maps can be downloaded and printed directly from the app. Chair Wainwright stated that his understanding was that the intent was to design printed maps independent from the AllTrails application, and to have high-quality copies printed for residents to take with them into the woods.

Chair Wainwright asked Member McVay to pursue his idea of using AllTrails itself to produce the printed maps, and to come to agreement with Member Krause about how to proceed.

 Eagle Scout Projects - Chair Wainwright stated that, after speaking with Town Clerk Julianna Hale, he learned that her son will soon be looking for an Eagle Scout project. Chair Wainwright asked Alternate Steele if he'd be the liaison between the Boy Scouts & the Commission to help organize possible projects for prospective Eagle Scouts. Alternate Steele stated that he already brought up this matter at the last Troop 9 meeting, where he announced that the Commission has projects available that could possibly become Eagle Scout projects.

Chair Wainwright stated that there had been discussions about clearing the Bittersweet Vine at the trail entrance on Merrill Drive, and asked Alternate Steele if he could enlist the help of a handful of Boy Scouts on a Saturday morning to accomplish this. Alternate Steele stated that he would look into getting the Boy Scouts assistance with this clearing.

7) <u>Land Conservation Planning – Grant Application Submitted</u>:

Chair Wainwright stated that the Moose License Plate Grant for the Land Conservation Plan was submitted on schedule, and he received a confirmation of receipt indicating that the application was filled out completely. Chair Wainwright continued that the Commission should hear back by December 6 whether or not the grant is approved.

8) Brief Reports & Other Business:

a. 3rd Saturday Walks in the Woods:

- January 18, 2020: Wildlife Tracking Emma Tutein, Wildlife Biologist, UNH
 Cooperative Extension. Member McVay stated that Ms. Tutein is an expert in
 wildlife. This walk will likely take place in the Chadwick Town Forest which
 abuts the Woodlock Recreation Area, since this is the most likely Town Forest
 with convenient parking for an event in January.
- Chair Wainwright stated that the Walk in the Woods on Marshall Town Forest in September was a great success and a good time was had by all. It was well attended by residents from Hampstead, but not Atkinson despite his rather thorough publicity for the event.

b. Office Hours to Resume October 19 from 10:00AM – 12:00Noon – Volunteer?

Chair Wainwright stated that he reserved the library meeting room for the third Saturdays in October, November & December. Chair Wainwright asked the Commission for a volunteer to assist with these office hours; Alternate Steele volunteered, tentatively.

c. Spring Tree Giveaway - Scott

Chair Wainwright asked Member Kukshtel for an update on this project. Member Kukshtel stated that he did some research into the New Hampshire Nursery organization and found that the seedling catalogs are sent out in December and they begin taking orders immediately thereafter. Member Kukshtel stated that depending on what kind of tree seedlings are ordered they cost between \$0.60 to \$0.80 each. Member Kukshtel stated that in the past, the Commission purchased about 200 seedlings and handed them out, free-of-charge, to residents in late April or early May. Member Kukshtel stated that he'd stay on top of this project and bring the catalog to the Commission as soon as it arrives in the mail.

d. Foley Property Line? - Denise

Chair Wainwright stated that about a year ago, he and some Commission members did a site walk of the Foley subdivision on Big Island Pond. According to the Foley's survey plan, the property line between their land and Town land is a stone wall that

now has sections missing. Chair Wainwright had asked Jim Lavelle to place a pin in that area so the property line may be properly delineated, but it is unclear if this pin has yet been placed. Chair Wainwright stated that he and Member Legault are staying on top of this to ensure the property lines are clearly marked, because although it is not a particularly valuable piece of land, it is still conservation land.

A portion of the Foley's plan, showing the area of concern in yellow highlighting, is attached to these minutes.

e. Shoreland Permit Application from Lili Bao (Teardown & Rebuild) - Denise

Chair Wainwright stated that Lili Bao has submitted a permit request to tear down and rebuild the home on her property at 25 Stickney Road, Map 23 Lot 26, which is across the street and a little further down the road from the Atkinson Canoe/Kayak launch. Chair Wainwright clarified that the new home will have the same footprint as the existing structure. Chair Wainwright stated that, after his review of the plan with Member Legault, it was agreed that there are no concerns that the Commission would have with this project. As a result, Chair Wainwright told New Hampshire DES that the Commission had no comments at this time.

f. ATVs on Marshall Land - Use Critter Camera? - Tim

Chair Wainwright stated that Member Dziechowski still has the other Critter Camera, and as a result, it has not yet been placed on the Marshall Land to monitor or deter ATV use on the trails. Chair Wainwright stated that Member Krause probably knows that land the best so he'll ask him to go to the trailhead with Member Dziechowski to set this camera up.

g. Coming in November: Michelle Veasey Request to Place Solar Generation on Conservation Land

Chair Wainwright stated that Michelle Veasey, chair of the Atkinson Energy Committee, contacted him in regard to a possible project which would power all Town-owned buildings via solar energy. Chair Wainwright stated that the Energy Committee is looking at the roof of the library as a potential spot for solar panels, but they would need more square-footage to house enough panels to power all necessary buildings. Ms. Veasey plans on presenting this project to the Commission at our November meeting to see if we would be at all interested in entertaining the idea of placing solar panels on conservation land. Several Commission members expressed reservations about the idea.

h. Other Business

Chair Wainwright stated that he received an email from a representative of Asplund Tree Company, who is contracted by Unitil to trim trees along the company's wires. The email stated that they'd like to do some tree trimming around utility wires on

Stickney Road, and asked where the conservation lands were located in that area. Chair Wainwright created a map that identifies all conservation land in the area, and passed the map onto the Asplund representative. A copy of this map is attached to these minutes.

Chair Wainwright asked the Commission if anyone had other new business. Member McVay stated that he'd like to see a survey of stone walls done around Town. Member McVay stated that it would be a low-level project that wouldn't take too much effort aside from having someone physically walk along the stone walls to map them out but at this point it is just an idea and not too high on the priority list.

9) Next Meetings:

The next two regular Conservation Commission meetings will be Mondays November 4, 2019, and December 2, 2019 at 7:00PM instead of the normal 7:30PM timeframe.

10) NH ACC Annual Conference Saturday, November 2, 2019

We now have a total of six members attending this year's NH ACC Annual Conference. Chair Wainwright stated that he is absolutely delighted with this.

11) Adjournment:

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to adjourn.

Member Kukshtel made a motion to adjourn the October 7, 2019 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Member Nenart seconded the motion. Seven members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the October 7, 2019 meeting voted in favor. Vote: 7/0/0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Zachary Gilberti, Recording Clerk

Attachments:

- a) Treasurer's Report
- b) Letter to the Board of Selectmen about the East Road pumping station
- c) Charlie Moreno's map of the Sawyer Town Forest
- d) Foley property line map
- e) Map of conservation lands on and near Stickney Road

Town of Atkinson Conservation Commission 2019 Budget Tracking

| Account Number | Description | TM Approved 2019 Budget | What | Amount | Date Prepared | Date Submitted | Amount Submitted | YTD Total | | YTD Unspent |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| | | | Minutes: Oct - Dec (est 7h/mo @ 18/hr) Minutes, Sep 9, 2019 (5 hr @ \$20/hr) Minutes, Aug 5, 2019 (8 hr @ \$20/hr) Minutes, Jan 7, 2019 | \$378.00 \$100.00 \$160.00 \$82.50 | 9/13/2019 8/9/2019 1/14/2019 | 9/13/2019 8/9/2019 | \$100.00 \$160.00 \$82.50 | \$ 342.50 | | |
| 40.46111.110.00 | RECORDING CLERK | \$ 998.00 | Budget Adjustment - removed | 382.30 | 1/14/2019 | 8/12/2019 | 382.30 | \$195.00 | \$ | 460.50 |
| | | | Minutes: Oct - Dec (estimate) Minutes. Sep 9, 2019 Minutes, Aug 5, 2019 | \$23.44 \$6.20 \$9.92 | 9/13/2019 8/9/2019 | 9/13/2019 8/9/2019 | \$6.20 \$9.92 | \$ 16.12 | | |
| 40.45111.220.00 | FICA .062 | \$ 1.00 | Budget Adjustment - added | 33.32 | 8/3/2013 | 8/12/2019 | | (\$44.00) | \$ | 28.88 |
| | | | Minutes: Oct - Dec (estimate) Minutes, Sep 9, 2019 | \$5.48 \$1.45 | 9/13/2019 | 9/13/2019 | \$1.45 | | | |
| 40.45111.225.00 | Medicare .0145 | \$ 1.00 | Minutes, Aug 5, 2019 Budget Adjustment - added | \$2.32 | 8/9/2019 | 8/9/2019 8/12/2019 | \$2.32 | \$ 3.77 (\$10.00) | \$ | 7.23 |
| | | | Charlie Moreno - Sawyer Invasive Phase 2 | \$675.00 | | | | | | |
| | | | RPC (Julie LaBranche) Cons Plan - Phase 1 | \$750.00 | 10/2/2019 | 10/2/2019 | \$750.00 | | | |
| | | | Charlie Moreno - Sawyer Invasive - Phase 1 Minutes, July 1, 2019 | \$1,230.75 \$84.00 | 10/2/2019 7/26/2019 | 10/2/2019 7/26/2019 | \$1,230.75 \$84.00 | | | |
| | | | Lavelle - Merrill Drive Survey | \$787.50 | 7/8/2019 | 7/8/2019 | \$787.50 | | | |
| | | | Charlie Moreno - Chadwick inspection Minutes, June 3, 2019 | \$450.00 \$90.00 | 6/20/2019 6/18/2019 | 6/20/2019 6/18/2019 | \$450.00 \$90.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes, May 6, 2019 | \$36.00 | 5/27/2019 | 5/27/2019 | \$36.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes, Apr 1, 2019 | \$132.00 | 4/24/2019 | 4/26/2019 | \$132.00 | | | |
| | | | Registry of Deeds (Tim) Minutes, Mar 3, 2019 | \$3.00 \$120.00 | 3/26/2019 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 3/26/2019 | \$3.00 \$120.00 | | | |
| | | | Minutes, Feb 4, 2019 | \$156.00 | 2/21/2019 | 2/22/2019 | | \$ 3,839.25 | | |
| 40.46111.390.00 | OTHER PROF SERVICES | \$ 2,500.00 | Budget Adjustment - added | | | 8/12/2019 | | (\$1,570.00) | \$ | 230.75 |
| 40.46111.550.00 | PRINTING AND BINDING | \$ 1.00 | Budget Adjustment | | | | | \$ - \$ - | Ś | 1.00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40.46111.560.00 | DUES/SUBS/MEMBERSHIPS | \$ 400.00 | NH ACC Dues (confirmed 10/2) NH Ass'n of Natural Resource Scientists Budget Adjustment - added | \$425.00 | 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 8/12/2019 | \$20.00 | \$ 20.00 \$ (70.00) | \$ | 450.00 |
| 10110111100000 | BOLS/ BOLS/ MEMBEROLING | ў 100.00 | bauger ajasanene udueu | | | 0/12/2013 | | \$ - | Ť | 130.00 |
| 40.46111.620.00 | OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$ 1.00 | Budget Adjustment | | | | | \$ - | \$ | 1.00 |
| 40.46111.625.00 | POSTAGE | \$ 1.00 | Somebody charged postage Budget Adjustment | | | | \$ 0.71 | \$ 0.71 | \$ | 0.29 |
| | | | Mowing - Dan | \$900.00 | | | | | | |
| | | | Supplies for gates - Dan | \$98.94 | 8/6/2019 | 8/6/2019 | \$98.94 | | | |
| | | | Gates and Posts - Dan | \$595.03 | 5/13/2019 | 5/13/2019 | \$595.03 | | | |
| | | | Sign Posts (from late December) | \$37.18 | 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 | \$37.18 | | | |
| | | | Registry of Deeds (Tim)- moved to Other Prof. Svcs Terrain Navigator Pro License | \$361.00 | 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 | \$361.00 | | | |
| | | | Replacement float for Town Dock, -2% | \$126.89 | 1/24/2019 | 1/25/2019 | \$124.35 | | | |
| 40.46111.650.00 | CARE OF GROUNDS | \$ 3,000.00 | Ebner reimbursement: Junction Markers Budget Adjustment - removed | \$103.68 | 1/2/2019 | 1/7/2019 8/12/2019 | \$103.68 | \$ 1,320.18 \$ 729.00 | \$ | 950.82 |
| | | | New Critter Camera - Tim | \$77.93 | 8/6/2019 | 8/6/2019 | \$77.93 | | | |
| | | | New Critter Camera - Paul Stihl Hedge Trimmer, battery, and charger | | hold for now hold for now | | | | | |
| | | | Sum: | \$593.61 | noid for now | | | \$ 77.93 | | |
| 40.46111.740.00 | NEW EQUIPMENT | \$ 300.00 | Budget Adjustment | | | 8/12/2019 | | \$ - | \$ | 222.07 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Meeting w/ Eben Lewis 1/2/19 - 98 mi + \$4 | \$60.84 | 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 | \$60.84 | \$ 60.84 | 11. | |
| 40.46111.820.00 | MILEAGE | \$ 74.00 | Budget Adjustment | | | 8/12/2019 | Ş - | Ş - | \$ | 13.16 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Eagle Project - Adam Torres | \$87.40 | 9/10/2019 | 9/10/2019 | \$87.40 | ć 402.42 | | |
| 40.46111.840.00 | SPECIAL PROGRAMS | \$ 1,000.00 | Barry Conservation Camp Budget Adjustment - removed | \$315.00 | 3/26/2019 | 3/26/2019 8/12/2019 | \$315.00 | \$ 402.40 \$ 575.00 | \$ | 22.60 |
| | | , ,,,,,,,,, | | ¢200.00 | 1 | . , | | | П | |
| | | | NH ACC Annual Conference (5 @ \$60) | \$300.00 | l | | | \$ - | | |
| 40.46111.850.00 | EDUCATION & CONFERENCES | \$ 250.00 | Budget Adjustment | | | 8/12/2019 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | 250.00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40.46111.875.00 | SIGNS | \$ 500.00 | Conservation Easement Boundary Markers Budget Adjustment - removed | \$304.77 | 1/28/2019 | 1/29/2019 8/12/2019 | \$304.77 | \$ 304.77 \$ 195.00 | \$ | 0.23 |
| .00211.075.00 | | | | | | 0,12,2013 | | | | |
| | TOTALS | \$ 9,027.00 | | | | | | \$ 6,388.47 | \$ | 2,638.53 |

Committed but not paid: \$3,300.53

\$ (662.00)

Town of Atkinson Conservation Commission 21 Academy Avenue Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811

October 15, 2019

Mr. William G. Friel Chair, Board of Selectmen, Town of Atkinson

Re: Proposed Pumping Station of East Road

Dear Bill -

Mr. Gene Forbes from Underwood Engineers appeared before the Atkinson Conservation Commission at our regular meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019. Mr. Forbes is the lead engineer for the Plaistow part of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project, and he presented to us their proposed plan for placing a water pumping station near the Atkinson/Plaistow town line on East Road.

As currently planned, the pumping station building would be partly on Map 10 Lot 5, for which they already have an easement, and partly on Map 10 Lot 6, which is owned by the Town of Atkinson, and for which they yet need to negotiate an easement. I have attached a portion of our tax map with an arrow showing the proposed location.

During our meeting, the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to support the proposal to obtain an easement from the Town of Atkinson for this project. Although the easement on the neighboring lot has sufficient area to locate the building entirely on that lot, to do so would require filling a portion of the Prime Wetland that abuts the project. If an easement were to be obtained on a portion of the town-owned lot, then the building could be located on dry ground with no direct impact on the wetland. I have attached a portion of their plan showing the proposed location for the building, with the wetland boundary highlighted in yellow.

We hope you will look favorably upon the proposal for an easement from the town to enable this project to proceed with minimal impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

Paul Wainwright, Chair, Atkinson Conservation Commission

Copy to:

David Cressman, Atkinson Town Administrator Gene Forbes, Underwood Engineers Mark Pearson, Plaistow Town Manager









